



# Tempe Public Art

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**Design team artist:**  
**Thomas Strich**  
Landscape Architect:  
Ruben Valenzuela  
Architect: Virginia Senior

*The Creative Edge, 2009*

Steel, concrete, fiberglass,  
recycled materials, river rock

**Location:** Tempe Town Lake  
South Bank near Priest Drive

Photo: Craig Smith

**Description:** *The Creative Edge* infuses public art into the western segment of the Rio Salado South Bank path. The design team integrated sculptures and architectural structures with the landscape design along the path and its nodes. The entrance landmark is composed of art panels made from recycled street signs. The sculptural seats reference rock outcroppings in the riverbed and include river rock medallions, while the flowing shape of the path with inspired by Hohokam water patterns.

**Artist biography:** Thomas Strich was born and raised in California. He received a double B.A. degree in Studio Art and Art Theory from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and received an M.F.A. degree in sculpture from Arizona State University. Strich has been an Arizona-based artist since 1990. Since 1995 he has been applying his skills as a mixed media artist and photographer toward urban planning processes and public art projects. In his studio work, Strich has explores the mentality and perception that underscores the relationships humans develop with their natural environment. He has completed public art and private development projects for Tempe, Phoenix, and Queen Creek.

**Funding:** This project was funded through City of Tempe Transit Capital Improvement Project funds.